(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The figures of Jawans who have died or have sustained injuries as a result of mine explosions or explosion of Improvised Explosive Devices are not maintained on a state-wise basis. However, as per available records the Army Headquarters has informed that 61 Army personnel were killed and 159 were wounded due to mine accidents and Improvised Explosive Device explosions during the last 6 months (1st October 2001 to 31st March 2002).

(c) and (d) Initial high level inquiries revealed that the mine laying operations were carried out in adverse climatic and terrain conditions like night laying, fog etc. Due to such constraints certain accidents could possibly be ascribed to human error. In certain cases, mines and fuzes held in inventory for a long period, did not perform satisfactorily. The Government have initiated steps to ensure that new mines and fuzes are introduced to replace the old inventories.

Submarine Building Programme for Indian Navy

2544. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved a 30 year submarine building programme to meet the needs of Indian Navy;

(b) if so, whether these submarines will be built indigenously or with the collaboration of some other country; and

(c) the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Government have approved a long term perspective plan for indigenous construction of submarines and acquisition of national competence in submarine building. The plan is to be implemented in two phases. The first phase is scheduled for completion in 2012 and the second phase in 2030. Requisite

assistance in high technology areas from foreign sources is envisaged to achieve the desired objective. A final decision has, however, not been taken in this regard.

Extension of road from Khori-Wali to Nandansar in J&K

2545. MIRZA ABDUL RASHID: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a 10 km. road from Darhal bus-stand to Khori-wali, important to block militants, has been constructed by the Army in Rajouri District of Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to extend this road by 15 km. from Khori-wali to Nandansar thus making the area safe from militants and providing access to many meadows and likes for the benefit of the people and tourists; and

(c) if so, the steps being proposed by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Complaints regarding separation of widows of soldiers from their in-laws after taking deceased benefits

†2546. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any complaints where widows of the soldiers killed in 'Operation Vijay' in Kargil and widows of the soldiers killed in other Army operations, settle down with some other persons by separating themselves from their in-laws families after taking the benefits available to them;

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† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.